ANK BROWN
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
FOREIGN RELATIONS
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0604

August 25, 1993

Christy Hopping

[redacted]

Dear Christy:

Many thanks for sharing your thoughts about President Clinton's new policy on homosexuals in the military. It is helpful to have your comments.

The stated goals of the original Department of Defense (DOD) policy were to ensure our servicemen and women maintain high morale, good order and discipline, to foster mutual trust between service members, and to maintain public acceptance of military service.

On July 19th President Clinton announced his revised new policy toward homosexuals in the military. The policy has been dubbed "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue." It prohibits asking recruits their sexual orientation. It requires homosexuals to remain quiet about their homosexuality and it allows investigations only when there is credible information that a basis for discharge or disciplinary action exists. In my view it does not adequately address the issue and may well be unconstitutional.

During consideration of the Family Leave Act, the Senate rejected an amendment by Senator Dole of Kansas that would have reversed the President's order and restored the original DOD policy for six months to allow full congressional review and a vote on a final policy. I voted for the Dole amendment, which failed 62-37.

I am concerned that the right of privacy for military personnel may not be adequately protected by this policy.

If legislation regarding this issue is debated in the full Senate, I will keep your comments is mind.

Thank you again for getting in touch.

Sincerely,

Hank

Hank Brown
United States Senator

HB/cfj

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